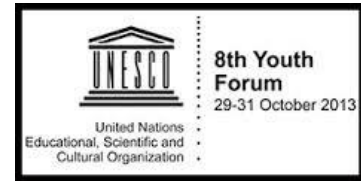


Youth Forum

Startup Weekend Application

An innovative partnership for social business



Are you interested in learning how to create a Startup, for free? Do you want to acquire entrepreneurial skills? Work with business experts to come up with innovative solutions to the challenges your country faces? Then apply for a spot to participate at the Youth Forum Startup Weekend, brought to you by the United States, UNESCO and the global NGO Startup Weekend!

What is the UNESCO Youth Forum Startup Weekend?

To kick off the [8th UNESCO Youth Forum](#), the United States Mission to UNESCO, Startup Weekend, and UNESCO want to teach you how to create a “startup” –a small enterprise designed to meet a local demand and be able to grow. We are presenting a special Startup Weekend, where aspiring entrepreneurs from different backgrounds will form teams, develop a concept or product, and launch a startup in 54 hours!

The **UNESCO Youth Forum Startup Weekend** is scheduled to take place in Paris on **October 25-27, 2013**. Participants will not only learn the ABC’s of entrepreneurship but also get the chance to join a global network of people who share the entrepreneurial spirit.

The theme of UNESCO’s 8th Youth Forum is **“Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development.”** This Startup Weekend will reflect this theme by focusing on social entrepreneurship and the development of innovative ways for youth to help resolve today’s most pressing issues.

How will the UNESCO Youth Forum Startup Weekend work?

Participants in this Startup Weekend will include delegates to UNESCO’s Youth Forum, aspiring entrepreneurs from France, and experienced participants from previous Startup Weekends from across the globe.

Attendees will arrive at Startup Weekend on Friday afternoon. On Friday, those with Startup ideas will “pitch” them to try and inspire others to join their team. On Saturday and Sunday,

the teams will focus on customer development, validating their ideas, practicing [Lean Startup Methodologies](#) and building a minimal viable product. Experts and prominent figures from the start-up world will be on hand to provide guidance and mentoring. On Sunday evening, the teams will present their projects and receive valuable feedback from a panel of experts. The panel will select a team to receive recognition and a special prize during the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum on October 29-31.

Please note that, while the presentations will be in English, there will be facilitators, mentors, and participants present who speak French.

For further information on how Startup Weekend works, please visit the [Startup Weekend](#) website.

Does it cost anything?

Only your time and energy! The United States Mission to UNESCO will cover food and accommodation for all Youth Forum delegates from Thursday, October 24 until Monday, October 28.

Already made your travel plans to Youth Forum? Don't let that stop you from applying; we will work with you to change them if you are selected.

Why should you apply?

Startup Weekend is an educational platform where you can learn from experienced professionals, develop your creative and entrepreneurial skills, and connect with a worldwide network of people dedicated to action and innovation. Startup Weekend's network encompasses 45,000 people from all over the world!

Startup Weekend has proven to be a highly effective formula for startup creation. Over 36% of Startup Weekend projects are still ongoing after 3 months, and about 80% of participants plan to continue working with their teams after the weekend. Previous Startup Weekend participants have produced numerous successful companies, including Foodspotting, Zaarly, and CloudMine.

What happens after Startup Weekend?

The United States Mission to UNESCO, Startup Weekend, and UNESCO will organize follow-up Startup Weekends in all six UNESCO regions (Africa, Middle East, Asia/Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe/North America).

Youth Forum Startup Weekend participants will be encouraged to get involved with and even help lead Startup Weekend events in their own region.

Who are we looking for?

We will select 30 Youth Forum delegates to participate in Startup Weekend, 5 delegates from each of UNESCO's regional groups (Africa, Middle East, Asia/Pacific, Latin America/ Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe/North America). We hope to have the participants be as diverse as possible, so please apply!

We are looking for creative, passionate, driven, and innovative people who are interested in how business and innovation can be used to address today's most pressing challenges.

Please note that NO prior business or startup experience is required, as Startup Weekend is designed to provide a crash course in entrepreneurship to anyone, regardless of background.

If interested in this free chance to expand your skills and meet other dynamic, motivated leaders, please fill out the four-question application below. You will be notified by October 1st if selected.

How to apply:

It's simple! If interested in this free chance to expand your skills and meet other dynamic, motivated leaders, please fill out the [online application](#). Applications must be submitted by **September 20, 2013**. You will be notified on **October 1, 2013** if selected.

If you have a question or if you have trouble accessing the application form, send us an email at: youthforumstartupweekend@state.gov